

## Message Text

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54

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 H-02 PA-02 AGR-10 ERDA-07 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 SAM-01

OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 FEA-01 /124 W

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R 191645Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL CALGARY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1724

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS CALGARY 316

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EMIN, CA

SUBJ: ALBERTA GOVERNMENT BLOCKS STRIP MINING PROPOSAL

REF: 76 CALGARY 274

1. ANY HOPES THAT MINING COMPANIES MAY HAVE ENTERTAINED THAT THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT MAY FOLLOW A LENIENT APPROACH IN THE APPLICATION OF ITS NEW COAL MINING LEGISLATION NOW APPEAR FAR FETCHED IN VIEW OF THE ACTION TAKEN RECENTLY BY EDMONTON TO BLOCK A DOLS 2.5 BILLION POWER PROJECT BECAUSE IT WOULD DESTROY PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND. THE PROJECT, PROPOSED BY CALGARY POWER, WOULD HAVE CALLED FOR STRIP MINING BETWEEN 35,000 TO 58,000 ACRES IN THE CAMROSE-RYLEY AREA SOUTHEAST OF EDMONTON TO PROVIDE COAL FOR ITS POWER GENERATING PLANTS. THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT SUGGESTED THAT THE COMPANY LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR ITS COAL MINING OPERATIONS.

2. THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT S DECISION EXPRESSED THE CABINET S DOUBTS THAT CALGARY POWER COULD RESTORE THE RELATIVELY HIGH GRADE FARM LAND TO ITS FORMER CONDITION, A KEY REQUIREMENT OF THE NEW PROVINCIAL COAL POLICY. THE GOVERNMENT SUGGESTED

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THAT CALGARY POWER EXPLORE THE USE OF ANOTHER AREA ABOUT

100 MILES NORTHEAST OF CALGARY WHERE, APPARENTLY, THE LAND WOULD BE EASIER TO RESTORE. THUS, FOR THE PRESENT, THE REAL CRUNCH BETWEEN POWER SUPPLY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HAS BEEN AVERTED, BUT UNLESS THE GROWTH IN POWER DEMAND MODERATES A TIME WILL COME WHEN EVEN ENERGY-RICH ALBERTA MAY RUN OUT OF EASY ALTERNATIVES.

3. IMPERIAL OIL LTD. REPORTEDLY IS STUDYING THE NEW ALTA. COAL MINING POLICY TO DETERMINE IF IT WOULD BE OPPORTUNE FOR IT TO ENGAGE IN COAL MINING OPERATIONS IN THE PROVINCE. WALTER B. DINGLE, CORPORATE MANAGER FOR ALBERTA, SAYS IMPERIAL HAS BEEN QUOTE PICKING UP ACREAGE IN COAL MINING AREAS AND MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE INTERESTED IN JOINING WITH A COAL MINING COMPANY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PROJECTS, BUT THIS PROBABLY WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE EARLY 80 S UNQUOTE.  
HALL

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## Message Attributes

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